

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

Rep. Thomas Gettys

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) **NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Lancaster	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 718.45.0060	DATE 8/19/71

1. NAME	
COMMON: Lancaster County Jail	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 208 West Gay Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Lancaster			
STATE South Carolina	CODE 29720	COUNTY: Lancaster	CODE 057

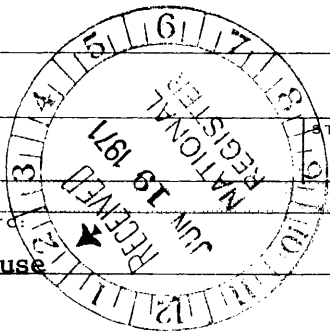
3. CLASSIFICATION							
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress		Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No	
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)							
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>County jail</u>	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	
OWNER'S NAME: Lancaster County	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: Lancaster	
STATE: South Carolina	CODE 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Lancaster County Courthouse	
STREET AND NUMBER: 104 North Main Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Lancaster	STATE: South Carolina
CODE 45	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE OF SURVEY: South Carolina Survey of Historic Places (Preliminary)	
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: South Carolina Department of Archives and History	
STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street, Box 11,188 Capitol Station	
CITY OR TOWN: Columbia	STATE: South Carolina
CODE 45	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	slightly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Palladian style stuccoed building of three stories with stone quoins and string courses. Other features include a gable roof, iron grates, first floor windows and doors within recessed arches, and gable parapets with coping and raised center section. A semielliptical gable recessment contains date of construction.

Interior - brick vaulted ceiling. Downstairs hall runs length of the building and separates the jailer's quarters from prison rooms for debtors. Doors to these rooms are made of double layers of heavy plank. The hinges are about three feet in length.

The upstairs, which is entered through a heavy door at the stair landing and another at the top of the staircase, is used for prisoners. This floor has barred cages in the center, permitting free circulation of air.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☐ 18th Century

☐ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1823

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Education

☐ Political

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Engineering

☐ Religion/Philosophy

☐ Other (Specify)

☐ Historic

☐ Industry

☐ Science

☐ Agriculture

☐ Invention

☐ Sculpture

☒ Architecture

☐ Landscape

☒ Social/Humanitarian

☐ Art

☐ Architecture

☐ Theater

☐ Commerce

☐ Literature

☐ Transportation

☐ Communications

☐ Military

☐ Conservation

☐ Music

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lancaster County Jail, relatively unaltered, is a significant example of Robert Mills architecture and reflects his innovative ideas on the proper construction of penal institutions.

Although Mills never signed his buildings and often failed to sign his plans, the following characteristics and facts all substantiate the 1823 Lancaster County Jail to be of his design;

1. Mills advocated free circulation of air in jail construction. This was achieved in Lancaster Jail through the placing of barred cages for prisoners in the middle of a room.

2. Absence of a dungeon reflects another Mills innovation in penal reform.

3. Mills advocated that the carekeepers' apartment be placed to overlook the most important parts of the building. The apartment of Lancaster County Jail is on the first floor.

4. Classifying of prisoners according to the crime was a Mills recommendation for jail reform. In the Lancaster Jail, prison rooms for debtors were on the first floor; other cells were on the second floor.

5. Interior brick vaults, a Mills characteristic.

6. Mills was a member of the Board of Public Works for the State of South Carolina from 1820-1830. He was referred to in public documents of that period as "State Engineer and Architect" although he signed official papers exactly as other members of the Board "Acting Commissioner."

7. Charles C. Wilson in his bulletin, Robert Mills Architect, states the public buildings in South Carolina erected from 1820-1830 were, doubtless, all designed by Mills.

8. In the Courier (Charleston) February 28, 1822, an advertisement signed Robert Mills, Acting Commissioner, Board of Public Works, invites proposals for the erection of court houses at Kingstree, Newberry, Yorkville and Greenville, and jails at Union, Spartanburg, Lancaster and Yorkville.

The Lancaster County Jail remains much as originally planned and exhibits handhewn stone work. W. W. Alsobrook was the contractor.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

* Architect

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Floyd, Viola C. Lancaster County South Carolina Tours. 1956.
 Malone, Dumas, Editor. "Robert Mills" from Dictionary of American Bibliography, Vol. 13. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1934.
Manuscript in South Carolina Archives, Columbia. Public Improvements: Buildings, 1800-1830, Lancaster District, Estimate for Jail.
 No date.
 Marsh, Blanche. Robert Mills Architect in South Carolina. Columbia, South Carolina: R. L. Bryan and Company, 1970.

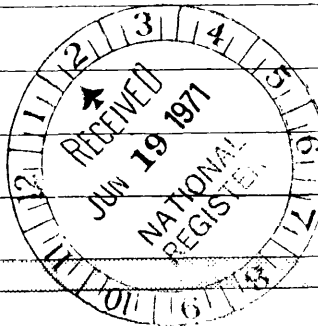
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE			
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0	34	0	43.09.13
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0	80	0	46.18.95
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0			
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/4 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Norman McCorkle, Historic Resources Assistant

ORGANIZATION
South Carolina Department Archives and History

DATE
August 29, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
1430 Senate Street, Box 11, 188 Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia

STATE
South Carolina

CODE
45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Charles S. Lef

Title Director, South Carolina
Department Archives and History

Date August 29, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

AUG 19 1971

Date

ATTEST:

William J. Murtagh
 Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 6/14/71

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE <u>South Carolina</u>	
COUNTY <u>Lancaster</u>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <u>71-8-45-0060</u>	DATE <u>8/19/71</u>

(Number all entries) 9. continued

Wilson, Charles C. Robert Mills Architect. Columbia, South Carolina:
University Press, 1919.

WPA. South Carolina, A Guide to the Palmetto State. New York: Oxford
University Press, 1941.

